

# NEWS RELEASE



**For More Information, Contact:**  
Lynn M. Childs 334.517.2415

June 29, 2012

## **ACJIC releases 2011 statewide crime statistics in annual *Crime in Alabama* report**

(Montgomery, Ala.) - Today the Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center (ACJIC) released *Crime in Alabama 2011*, the state's official statistical analysis of all crime reported within Alabama during 2011. Through increased efforts to improve the quality of crime information utilizing advanced technology and updated data standards, Alabama's law enforcement agencies reported crime more thoroughly than ever before. ACJIC notes that the increase in quality for crime submission standards may partially account for the seven percent (7%) increase in overall property crimes and eleven percent (11%) increase in violent crimes across Alabama in 2011.

The *Crime in Alabama 2011* report includes crime statistics based on Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) data submitted to ACJIC by approximately 350 Alabama law enforcement agencies. Last year, for *Crime in Alabama 2010*, more than 50 of these agencies only reported partial information for the year, including the Birmingham Police Department, the state's largest law enforcement agency, which reported only six months of UCR data to the state in 2010.

Published by ACJIC each year, the annual *Crime in Alabama* publication features a compilation of incident, offense and arrest data reported by county, municipal, university and state law enforcement agencies throughout Alabama for the previous calendar year. The report also includes an overview of certain Part II crimes, as well as statistics regarding arrests and recovered property.

"I'm proud of my staff, as well as all of the agencies across the state, who have worked hard to produce this thorough report," said Maury Mitchell, ACJIC Director. "Though the numbers seem to have increased, Alabama has a more accurate picture of crime in the state, which will allow our policymakers and law enforcement officials to make more informed decisions in response to crime."

ACJIC credits a new rule promulgated by the ACJIC Commission effective Jan. 1, 2010, requiring all law enforcement agencies to *electronically* submit data from Incident/Offense and Arrest crime reports to ACJIC, for the increased number of agencies reporting 12 months of data during 2011. As noted in the report, a summary non-electronic submission of crime data was submitted by 20 Alabama

law enforcement agencies experiencing electronic submission difficulties. These agencies were granted an extension until April 1, 2012 to address local electronic reporting issues and to begin reporting electronically for the full year of 2012. Any agency not reporting electronically will not be included in the future *Crime in Alabama* reports.

Highlights of the report, which is available to the public for review online at <http://www.acjic.alabama.gov/crime.cfm> include:

- A seven percent increase in property crimes through increased reporting in 2011, while the 2010 report reflected a five percent decrease from 2009. Part I Property crimes included in *Crime in Alabama* include the crimes of burglary, larceny (theft), motor vehicle theft and arson. The report also noted:
  - A one percent increase in the crime of Larceny (theft) through increased reporting in 2011, while the 2010 report showed a three percent decrease from 2009;
  - A two percent increase in the crime of Motor Vehicle Thefts through increased reporting in 2011, while the 2010 report showed a five percent decrease from 2009;
  - A 23 percent increase in the crime of Burglary through increased reporting in 2011, while the 2010 report showed a 12 percent decrease from 2009; and
  - A 67 percent increase in the property crime of arson through increased reporting in 2011, while the 2010 report showed an 83 percent increase from 2009. Arson is not included in property crime totals reported by the FBI, but is instead listed as its own category.
- An 11 percent increase in the number of violent crimes through increased reporting in 2011, while the 2010 report reflected a decreased by 10 percent from 2009. Part I violent crimes included in *Crime in Alabama* include the crimes of homicide, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault. The report also noted:
  - A seven percent increase in the Robbery crimes through increased reporting in 2011, while the 2010 report showed a 24% decrease from 2009;
  - A 13 percent increase in the number of Rapes through increased reporting in 2011, while the 2010 report showed a 13 percent decrease from 2009;
  - A 13 percent increase in the number of aggravated assaults through increased reporting in 2011, while the 2010 report showed a two percent decrease from 2009; and
  - A 22 percent increase in the number of homicides through increased reporting in 2011, while the 2010 report showed a 20 percent decrease from 2009.

“We always caution citizens or the media against drawing conclusions by making direct comparisons between statistics submitted by cities or individual agencies, particularly when the increased reporting from last year, and the electronic and summary statistical reporting methods used,

make an ‘apples to apples’ comparison impossible,” Mitchell said. “There are unique conditions that affect each law enforcement jurisdiction, and valid assessments are only possible with careful study and analysis of the conditions that affect each law enforcement jurisdiction.”

ACJIC also credits the use of its UCR Local Template for Reporting and Analysis (ULTRA) software, which allows electronic UCR reports to be submitted to the state UCR repository at no cost to law enforcement agencies without the capability to already submit electronically, for the 2011 reporting increases. 309 Alabama law enforcement agencies took advantage of this free service during 2011.

Alabama’s Uniform Crime Reporting program is administered by ACJIC Statistical Analysis Center to provide uniform crime statistics to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The 36th edition of annual *Crime in Alabama* report was prepared by the ACJIC, the state agency responsible for gathering and providing critical information for Alabama’s law enforcement and the criminal justice community. Leading the nation in the development of ground-breaking technology, ACJIC connects local, state and federal law enforcement agencies to the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) administered by the FBI and also provides access to law enforcement in all 50 states and internationally via Nlets, the International Justice and Public Safety Network.

A full report of Alabama’s crime statistics may be viewed in the *Crime in Alabama 2011* report online at <http://www.acjic.alabama.gov/crime.cfm>.

The interactive *Crime in Alabama* dashboards previously published by ACJIC allowing citizens to quickly search and locate statistics on Part I and Part II crimes reported by particular law enforcement agencies or in particular counties to the state’s UCR program was discontinued by ACJIC this year due state budget cuts and layoffs experienced by the agency.